

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 08374 01 OF 02 031810Z

45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01

HEW-08 IO-14 DRC-01 /142 W
----- 129871

R 031758Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1807

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 08374

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UK, PINT

SUBJECT: MINERS ADOPT MODERATE POLICY ON PAY

1. SUMMARY: THE SOCIAL CONTRACT BETWEEN THE TRADE UNIONS AND THE LABOR GOVERNMENT WAS GIVEN A CONSIDERABLE BOOST JULY 2 WHEN THE ANNUAL POLICY-MAKING CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF MINEWORKERS (NUM) NARROWLY REJECTED MILITANT PROPOSALS FOR PAY INCREASES OF UP TO 20 POUNDS A WEEK AND INSTEAD ADOPTED A COMPARATIVELY MODERATE RESOLUTION CALLING FOR "SUBSTANTIAL" INCREASES. END SUMMARY

2. THE DECISION BY LEADERS OF BRITAIN'S 260,000 MINERS TO REJECT LEFT-WING ATTEMPTS TO COMMIT THEM TO SUBSTANTIAL PAY DEMANDS CAME AFTER LEN MURRAY, TUC GENERAL SECRETARY, HAD URGED THE UNION TO SHOW "POSITIVE UNITY" BEHIND THE GUIDELINES FOR NEGOTIATORS WHICH THE TUC RECENTLY ADOPTED AS ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SOCIAL CONTRACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT (LONDON 8097). IT MEANS THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE 1970 AND THE MILITANT PAY BATTLES OF THE PAST TWO YEARS THE UNION'S NEXT PAY CLAIM WILL NOT CONTAIN A PRECISE PAY TARGET AND REPRESENTS A REASSERTION OF MODERATE INFLUENCE WITHIN THE NUM.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 08374 01 OF 02 031810Z

3. THE NUM CONFERENCE REJECTED BY AN EXTREMELY NARROW MARGIN OF ONLY FOUR VOTES A MILITANT MOTION PUT FORWARD BY THE YORKSHIRE AREA WHICH CALLED FOR NEW PAY RATES FROM NOVEMBER 1 OF 65 POUNDS, 50 POUNDS AND 45 POUNDS A WEEK, SOME 20 POUNDS, 14 POUNDS AND 13 POUNDS ABOVE THE PRESENT RATES FOR FACE WORKERS, OTHER UNDERGROUND WORKERS AND SURFACE WORKERS RESPECTIVELY, AND INCLUDED AN INSTRUCTION TO THE NUM EXECUTIVE TO CONSULT MEMBERS "WITH A VIEW TO TAKING INDUSTRIAL ACTION" IN THE EVENT OF AN UNSATISFACTORY OFFER.

4. THE SUCCESSFUL MODERATE RESOLUTION EXCLUDES ANY MENTION OF INDUSTRIAL ACTION AND A TIMING FOR THE NEXT PAY DEAL (THE CURRENT AGREEMENT EXPIRES IN MARCH 1975). IT INSTRUCTS THE NUM EXECUTIVE TO SEEK "SUBSTANTIAL INCREASES IN WAGES AND IMPROVEMENTS IN CONDITIONS WHICH REFLECT THE NEW RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE MINeworkERS IN THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMY." ALSO IT SEEKS LONG-TERM AGREEMENTS WHICH WOULD PROTECT WAGE LEVELS, ENSURE ADEQUATE PENSIONS, CONTINUE FLEXIBLE COST-OF-LIVING PAYMENTS, AND INCREASES IN HOLIDAYS AND HOLIDAY PAYMENTS.

5. REJECTION OF THE HARD-LINE MOTION PROPOSED BY THE YORKSHIRE AREA HAD THE BACKING OF THE NUM'S 27-MAN EXECUTIVE WHICH HAD DECIDED, ALBEIT BY A VERY SLENDER MAJORITY, AT A MEETING BEFORE THE CONFERENCE WAS CONVENED TO PUT ITS WEIGHT BEHIND THE "NO TARGET" RESOLUTION. EVEN SO, ARTHUR SCARGILL, YORKSHIRE AREA PRESIDENT, SAID AFTER THE CONFERENCE DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN THAT HE HOPED THE 20 POUND FIGURE WOULD BE THE ONE WHICH THE UNION NEGOTIATORS "WOULD HAVE AT THE BACK OF THEIR MINDS" WHEN THEY MET THE COAL BOARD. MICHAEL MCGAHEY, COMMUNIST VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE NUM, SAID THAT THE "WAGES MOVEMENT IN THE UNION WOULD CONTINUE IN SPITE OF THIS SET-BACK." PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE HE UNVEILED A "MINERS' NEW CHARTER", DRAWN UP BY THE SCOTTISH AREA WHICH HE LEADS, WHICH CALLED FOR TOP WAGES OF 5,000 POUNDS A YEAR AND A FOUR-DAY WEEK. IN LAUNCHING THE CHARTER MCGAHEY STATED THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO RETAIN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LONDON 08374 01 OF 02 031810Z

SKILLED MANPOWER AND TO BE A SOURCE OF RECRUITMENT OF YOUTH INTO THE INDUSTRY. HE ADDED THAT HE REFUSED TO ACCEPT ANY SOCIAL CONTRACT WHICH WOULD HOLD BACK THE WAGES AND LIVING STANDARDS OF THE WORKERS AS HIS SOCIAL CONTRACT EXISTED "WITH THE MINERS AND THE WORKING CLASS OF BRITAIN." HE HOPED THE CHARTER MIGHT BECOME UNION POLICY.

6. IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE CONFERENCE LEN MURRAY, TUC
GENERAL SECRETARY, ASKED DELEGATES TO FOLLOW THE SPIRIT
OF TUC POLICY ON THE SOCIAL CONTRACT BY REMINDING THEM
OF THEIR OBLIGATIONS TO THE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AS A

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 08374 02 OF 02 031807Z

45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01

IO-14 HEW-08 DRC-01 /142 W

----- 129902

R 031758Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1808

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 08374

WHOLE. UNIONS HAD A PRIMARY CONTRACT, HE SAID, WITH
THEIR OWN MEMBERS, BUT THEY ALSO HAD A CONTRACT WITH
THE WHOLE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT AND HE BELIEVED THAT THE
TUC THEREFORE HAD A RIGHT ON OCCASIONS TO ASK UNIONS TO
TAKE ACCOUNT OF THE EFFECT OF THEIR ACTIONS ON OTHER
GROUPS WITHIN THE MOVEMENT. HE ADDED THAT UNIONS WERE
BEING ASKED BY THE TUC TO DO NO MORE THAN MAINTAIN THE
REAL VALUE OF THEIR MEMBERS' WAGES IN NEGOTIATIONS WHEN
STATUTORY CONTROLS ENDED - PROBABLY AT THE END OF JULY -
AND WARNED THAT A WAGES EXPLOSION "WOULD BLOW UP MORE
THAN THE RETAIL PRICE INDEX."

7. SIR DEREK EZRA, NATIONAL COAL BOARD CHAIRMAN, TOLD
THE CONFERENCE THAT HE DID NOT RULE OUT SUBSTANTIAL
INCREASES FOR MINERS THIS YEAR "PROVIDED THEY ARE PAID
FOR OUT OF PRODUCTIVITY." HE SAID THAT A CLAIM WITHOUT

FIXED PAY TARGETS ALLOWED GREATER FLEXIBILITY FOR
NEGOTIATORS AND ADDED THAT HE WANTED TO SEE MINERS REMAIN
AT OR NEAR THE TOP OF THE INDUSTRIAL EARNINGS LEAGUE,
SO LONG AS HIGH EARNINGS WERE PAID FOR OUT OF THE EARN-
INGS OF THE INDUSTRY. HE PROMISED THAT TALKS WOULD SOON
BE HELD WITH THE UNION ON A NATIONAL PRODUCTIVITY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 08374 02 OF 02 031807Z

SCHEME LINKED TO LOCAL INCENTIVES, THUS ENABLING THE
OBJECTIVE OF HIGH EARNINGS AND PRODUCTIVITY TO BE
ACHIEVED.

ANNENBERG

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WAGES, POLICIES, MINING INDUSTRY, LABOR UNIONS, CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LONDON08374
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740176-0953
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740777/aaaacoib.tel
Line Count: 186
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinjw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 OCT 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2003 by martinjw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MINERS ADOPT MODERATE POLICY ON PAY
TAGS: PINT, UK, NUM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005